IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 4, as follows:

As in the case of Fig. 6, in step S20, a frame is extracted and in step S21, a scale factor is extracted. Then, in step S22, an evaluation function is calculated and in step S23, the evaluation function value is compared with a threshold value. If in step S23 it is judged that the evaluation function value is larger than the threshold value, the frame is judged to be a sound section frame and the flow proceeds to ~~S22~~S24. If in step S23 it is judged that the evaluation function value is less than the threshold value, the frame is judged to be a silent section frame. Then, the flow returns to step S20 and a subsequent frame is processed.